DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS VARIOUS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Honor waits, o'er all the earth, The art that calls her harvests forth.—BRYANT.

VOL. I. SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1849. NO. 13.

S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

CORN FODDER.

In New England, corn fodder, used green or dry, yields a larger crop than any other cultivated; and it is among the most valuable crops raised as to quality. There is probably no better crop for soiling, and dried and properly prepared for cattle, it is equal to good hay. We have many accounts of great crops, from extra pains in the preparation of the soil; but we find that with a soil in only tolerably good condition, a large amount of fodder is produced.

An acre of good corn land, well dressed, will generally produce four or five tons of dry fodder, and four times that amount of green. As feed grows short the latter part of summer, particularly on dry lands, the farmer should provide some fodder for his cattle; and none is cheaper than that of Indian corn, as has been abundantly proved on the milk farms in this region, where the practice is almost universal.

The famous Chinese Tree corn is an excellent variety for fodder, yielding a large crop, of excellent quality. Some farmers plant the sweet corn, as it yields fodder of a superior quality. The southern corn grows rank, and yields more than the northern; yet some prefer the northern kinds, as they produce finer fodder, and the cattle eat it more readily; yet the majority prefer the southern, on account of its productiveness. The Chinese yields nearly as well as the southern corn, and the fodder is better.

Corn, for fodder, is often sown broadcast and harrowed in; but the crop will be larger if planted in drills, and dressed once by the use of the cultivator and hoe. By rather thick planting, a very large growth is prevented. Make the drills about three feet apart for large corn, and let the spears stand only two or three inches apart in the drill. It is often sown in broad drills, and allowed to stand so thick that there will be ten or twelve stalks to a foot in length.

BOMMER MANURE.

We have occasionally published articles on this subject, showing the imposition that has been practised upon the farming community by selling rights for making manure by an old system that was patented in France, and the patent expired in 1840. We have published these facts, and yet many farmers allow themselves to be imposed upon by paying for what has been published and scattered broadcast over the whole country, and is free to all.

The venders of Bommer's right have pursued a singular course of management. In the first place, application was made for a patent, and rejected for want of novelty. Soon after, during the absence of the commissioner of patents, an application was made in another name, and a patent obtained. But this does by no means establish the validity of the patent.

If the same system has been practised in this or any other country, it becomes public property, unless discovered in this country and patented by the inventor.

Another piece of imposition, which is in keeping with the rest, was the appointment of agents for the sale of Bommer's right, before he or any one else had obtained a patent. After so bold a beginning in this business, it is no wonder that there has been a complete system of the same character. Examine the statement of Mr. Ellsworth, commissioner of patents, published four years ago in the Albany Cultivator, and copied into other papers, and compare it with the advertisement of Bommer's patent, in the Farmer's Gazette, published some years since in New Haven, Ct., and see which is prior, the date of the patent or of the advertisement.

From the information which we have on the subject, we should think that the amount that has been taken from farmers for this fictitious right, which any one might have had by paying the subscription of a paper for one year, is not less than twelve or fourteen thousand dollars. Now, farmers, are you willing to be fleeced in this manner, rather than inform yourselves, and thus shun the impositions which some are disposed to play off in order to fill their pockets from your hard earnings?

FRUIT CONVENTIONS.

We lately announced the time and place of meeting of the North American Pomological Convention.

We learn from the Vermont Chronicle, that the state committee of this convention, in Vermont, at the request of many fruit-growers, have called a state convention, to be held at Montpelier on the 18th of October. Gentlemen interested in growing fruits in Vermont, and delegates from societies, are requested to attend.

We are pleased to learn that fruit conventions are becoming more common. They are of very recent origin in this country. In 1847, the first was held in Ohio, and to that state belongs the high honor of not only giving a start to these enterprises, but of conducting their conventions with a great degree of ability, intelligence, and candor, furnishing very valuable standard pomological documents, in the reports of their transactions, which we regard as among the most authentic productions on fruit that have been published in this country. What other states will follow the worthy examples before them?

CABBAGE TURNIP, OR KHOL RABI.

In Europe, and in some seed catalogues in this country, this plant is called *turnip-rooted cabbage;* but this is erroneous, let the authority for the name be what it may, for it is a turnip, and not a cabbage; but it may with propriety be called a *cabbage turnip*, as it has a cabbage taste. In form, growth, &c., it is in reality a turnip.

There are two kinds of the *Khol Rabi*, one with the turnip below, or in the ground, like a ruta-baga; the other has the turnip above the ground, resting on a stem similar to a cabbage stump, only very short, the turnip being almost on the ground. In this kind the leaves come out on different parts of the turnip, but mostly on the upper side. The most common, and the better variety is that below the ground.

The cabbage turnip is sowed at the same time, cultivated in the same way, and used for the same purposes as the ruta-baga. For the table, it is whiter, milder, and sweeter, or has less of the peculiar strong turnip flavor, and resembles the old French turnip in quality, but is a very little whiter, and less liable to become corky.

The cabbage turnip keeps better than the ruta-baga, and is less liable to injury from frost. In Maine, where the winters are less liable to a change in temperature, we used to leave these turnips out in the fall, and in the spring they were in as fine condition as parsnips in the same ground. In this state, a few years ago, some friends, to whom we gave some seed, said that they kept perfectly well out doors. But we left some out for trial, winter before last, — a very variable season; sometimes heavy rains and warm weather suddenly succeeded by severe cold, and the reverse, — and the turnips were destroyed by frequent freezing and thawing.

For cattle, the cabbage turnip is excellent, and we never perceived any unpleasant taste in milk, from feeding cows freely with them. It yields largely, but it has many roots or prongs, which is an objection. For stock or for the table, we prefer the cabbage turnip to the ruta-baga. We have sold them to many of our neighbors, for a few years, who prefer them for the table to any other turnip, from November to May or June. Yet we recommend them for trial only, as every one may not give them the preference. Sow them by the side of the ruta-baga, and judge of their comparative value.

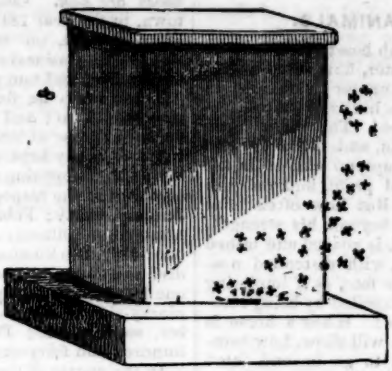
We raised a fine lot of seed, last year, of the genuine below ground variety; and those who would try it, may obtain some in the seed room of Messrs. Ruggles, Nourse, Mason, & Co., adjoining our office, where specimens of the root may be seen.

ADVANTAGES OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

We copy the following remarks from the address of L. F. Allen, late president of New York State Agricultural Society, before that association.

Another, and a prominent advantage, which we should receive from good agricultural education, would be, that of more stability of character in our farming population. It is proverbial among travelled foreigners in this country, and it would be a subject of wonder among our staid people at home, — if an American could wonder at any thing, — that we are the most changing people in the world. We, as a population, have few, scarce any, local attachments. This, to an extent, is a true, although a severe censure. It arises, no doubt, — and naturally enough too, — from the wide extent of national domain of which we are the possessors, and from the natural sterility of much of the soil in our older communities, which cause an effort, and a laudable one too, to better their condition in our rural population; but more, I imagine, from the low standard of agricultural improvement, and a mistaken estimate of the value of the soil, and its application to the products which properly belong to it. But no matter what the cause. The fact is so, and it is a defect in our national character. How many among us but will, with a slightly tempting offer, sell his homestead without remorse — break up the cherished associations of his life — turn his back upon the graves of his kindred and his children — his birth-spot — the old hearth-stone of his boyhood — his family altar — even the brave old trees, which have, life-long, waved their branches over his childish sports, and shadowed his innocent slumbers when weary of his play, all — all, pass out of his hands, like a plaything of yesterday, unwept and unregretted, for the fancied advantage of a fresh spot in a strange and a newer land.

I must, however, in justice, make some exceptions to this general propensity in American character. There are some among the descendants of the early New England Puritans, and the ancient Dutch settlers of this state, who have, with a pious regard to the memories of their ancestors, and a wise attachment to the spots of their birth, retained, and, through the influences of a correct education and well-settled principle, bid fair to retain, the paternal acres which they have inherited — homes of plenty, contentment, and genuine hospitality; where retired virtues, like those practised by their fathers, have long hallowed them with a local habitation and a name. Such stand out as strong landmarks in the fitful changes of place and name throughout our country, and redeem, to some extent, the caustic remark of the late John Randolph of Roanoke, who once declared, on the floor of Congress, that he scarce knew an American but would sell his very dog for money!



BEE-HIVES.

The bee hive is an important article. Much depends on its construction. Among the many hundreds that have been invented, and some hundreds that have been patented, only a few are worthy of attention. Several kinds are too expensive, and others are too complicated, and of difficult management. Economy is necessary in the management of bees, else the profit will be small, or there may be loss instead of profit. If hives are complicated, they require more care than they will receive: hence the importance of having those that are simple and easily managed.

As most early swarms of bees produce more honey than is necessary to support them through the winter, they will have a surplus; and there is a great advantage in having this in neat drawers or boxes, free from bee-bread or brood comb, and where it may be taken away at any time; therefore the newly constructed hives, that afford this convenience, are preferable to the old fashioned hives, which require the destruction of the bees to obtain the honey; and then the honey is worth far less than that in boxes or drawers.

Many hives can spare fifteen or twenty pounds of honey in a season, all of the finest quality, under good management. One bee-keeper took from eight hives, last season, over twenty pounds of honey each, and left enough for the bees. Hives of various constructions, on the new and improved systems, may be had at the agricultural warehouses; or the farmer may construct them to suit his own taste.

Bee-keeping, with good management, is one of the most profitable branches of rural industry. Every other domestic animal, in this section of the country, must be fed from the labor of man. The horse, the cow, the sheep, the hog, the dog, and cat, all must have the provident aid of man, to lay in a supply of food for winter, else they perish. Not so with the industrious bees. They procure not only sufficient food in summer to support them through the winter, but a surplus, as a liberal reward to the owner.

And this food, which the bee provides, is stored away in such a manner that he can help himself, and not, like other animals, require man to deal it out constantly, and carefully guard it from waste. Thus we see that the bee belongs to a high order of animals. In the construction of his comb, he is a perfect mathematician; and in providing for future wants, he shows all the foresight of the most provident of the human race, and he uses his food with all the care of a rigid economist.

We have a story of a bishop, who, on visiting the priests of his diocese, found many complaining of hard times and low salaries: at length he was surprised in finding one who had a very low salary, and yet was in the enjoyment of comfort and plenty. The bishop inquired the cause of his prosperity, and he was shown to the apiary, where numerous hives of bees were busy in the service of the priest. After that, when a priest complained to the bishop that his salary was low, he advised him to keep bees. And to thousands in our country might this judicious advice be given with great propriety — *Keep bees.*

GETTING MORE PRACTICAL.

We are happy to find that there is an opinion prevailing more or less throughout the community, that it is time the course of education in our seminaries should have a more practical tendency. Yale College and Cambridge have now their professors of agriculture. What would have been thought, forty or fifty years ago, of a professor of agriculture in one of those stately old colleges, where the sight of a farmer would have been considered as much out of place as a pig in a pulpit! We see it noticed in the journals of the day, that the trustees of Union College contemplate such an extension of the existing course of studies as to include the more useful application of science to the arts, such as civil and mechanical engineering, agriculture and agricultural and mechanical chemistry, &c., &c. We hope that the colleges throughout the Union will change their course of studies in such a way as to embrace a practical course of the above-named studies. — *Maine Farmer.*

Swarms of locusts, or grasshoppers, have appeared in Texas, literally covering the ground in some places, and devouring the wheat and corn. In other parts of the state, the corn and cotton have been injured by the cut-worm.

For the New England Farmer.

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

Mr. Editor: Could the dumb beast speak or make known its feelings to its master, how often would that master have his feelings hurt for the manner in which he has treated his horse, his ox, or some animal over which he has control! The noble horse was given for the use of man, and to be by him treated kindly. There is perhaps no animal in the service of man of more actual profit, and one deserving of kinder treatment. But how often is he abused! Often is he loaded beyond his strength, and, if unable to move his load, is goaded and lashed by an unmerciful driver, until, with distended nostrils, he stares his master in the face, as if imploring mercy. How many horses are spoiled by being compelled to draw too heavy loads! When a horse is willing to draw all his strength will allow, how careful ought his owner to be not to go beyond this! The lash ought never to be applied to an animal that refuses to draw because his load is too heavy for him to move. The farmer who is always plying the lash to his team, seldom has a team that is well disciplined. I have always noticed that the best teams are those used by drivers who "bawl" and whip the least.

"A merciful man is merciful to his beast;" and he who is not merciful to his beast, generally shows but little mercy to his fellow-creatures. The man who will goad and abuse the dumb beast is very liable to abuse his own family. A horse that is treated kindly by his master, will treat him kindly in return. So with other animals in the service of man. For instance, take the cow that is rather cross about being milked. Few cows are made gentle by incessant beating. There is no more ready way to spoil a cow, when you sit down to draw the milk from her, than to give her a blow with the milking stool, or a kick with the foot, if she should happen to feel a little uneasy about standing. A person may be obliged to chase a cow around the yard several times before being able to get near her, after such unmerited treatment.

I well remember the way I managed with a kicking cow, when I was a youngster. Like other boys, I was fretful and hasty. Soon after I commenced milking, the cow would begin to step, and sometimes raise her foot as if about to kick. The first thing, with me, perhaps, would be to speak out sharply, and if that did not have the desired effect, the milking stool would come next. After this mode of management, the cow grew *no better very fast*. I soon had to tie her legs; and even then, she would contrive to kick over my pail of milk; and if she happened to get loose or break her rope, which was oftentimes the case, it was no easy matter to confine her again. As it fell to my lot always to milk the "kicker," as she was called, I resolved to resort to another method. I accordingly commenced by being mild, (although it was a pretty hard matter;) but the result was, I brought the cow back to be quite a gentle milker; thus proving to a demonstration that kindness to animals will succeed when other means would fail; and I have ever aimed, since then, to be kind to dumb beasts, believing it the only and sure way of retaining the good will and mastery over them.

Smithfield, R. I., *May*, 1849. A. TODD.

For the New England Farmer.

PROFITS OF KEEPING HENS.

Mr. Editor: I have lately had related to me an account of an experiment in the business of keeping hens, which seems worthy of record, and which helps to sustain the position taken by some of our shrewdest farmers, that *hens are the most profitable animals which are kept.* Colonel Joel Briggs, now of this town, in the year 1844 lived in Dedham, at the Low Plain Station, on the Providence Railroad. As stock in the business of poultry-keeping, he possessed twelve hens and one protector.

These fowls he fed bountifully, giving them all they would eat; and a good return did they make for the expense of board. The items are from an account carefully kept at the time. The hens began laying at the opening of the year; and the number of eggs laid in the respective months was as follows: In January, thirty; February, forty-seven; March, two hundred and fifteen; April, two hundred and eighty-one; May, two hundred and thirteen; June, one hundred and four; July, one hundred and fifteen; August, one hundred and sixty; September, one hundred and ninety-six; October, one hundred and nine; November, seventy-one; December, none. Total, fifteen hundred and forty-one.

In the course of the season, nine of the hens were set on one hundred and forty-four eggs. Of the chickens hatched, fifty-six were raised to maturity. A fair proportion, both of the eggs produced and of the chickens raised, were consumed in the family; but for these, of course, the hens should be credited, just as if they had been sold. The chickens sold were taken at an average of twenty-eight and two sevenths apiece; the eggs, at eighteen cents a dozen. Almost the sole expense of keeping was for sixteen and two third bushels of corn and other grain, at an estimated average cost of sixty cents a bushel. The account with the gallinacean family stands as follows: —

Eggs produced, 1541; deduct 144 for setting — 1397, sold and salable, at eighteen cents per dozen, ...	$20 96
Fifty-six chickens raised, worth twenty-eight and two seventh cents, ...	15 84
	36 80
Deduct expense of keeping, sixteen and two third bushels of grain, at sixty cents, . .	10 00
Leaving a net profit of	$26 80

This shows a profit of two dollars and twenty-five cents nearly, to each hen; and as one of the number "took sick and died" in the course of the season, the *pro rata* profit on the rest is in fact greater than that stated. The place of keeping was nowise particularly favorable, being at the "switch," or turn-out on the railroad; and an unfortunate chicken, big enough for the table, was killed under the wheels of the ponderous steam Juggernaut.

SILAS LIVERMORE.

New Bedford, *May* 11, 1849.

Editorial Remarks. — We have many accounts of the profits in keeping poultry; but it is uncommon to find so large profit as here represented, which shows excellent success. There is not the least doubt that, with judicious management, poultry affords more profit on the capital invested, and the food expended, than any other stock kept on the farm. Much time is necessary in taking proper care of poultry; and in some cases this is a mere pastime for children and others, who have little else to do, and they amuse and instruct themselves in the care of beautiful birds, that serve to enliven the scene.

If a person has much to do, and must take time that is needed in other pursuits to attend to poultry, then the time of attendance will be an important item, that will considerably reduce the profit.

As we have numerous accounts of a great profit in

poultry on a small scale, some persons have tried it on a large scale, hoping to make it a good and principal business. But generally such plans have proved to be failures in this country, and frequently in part, if not wholly from injudicious management, as a large number of fowls have been crowded together, rendering them unproductive and producing disease. In England, some persons make a good business in keeping poultry, whether from superior management to that usually practised in this country, or from being content with less gain, we cannot say.

For the New England Farmer.

CULTIVATION OF INDIAN CORN.

Mr. Editor: I have read with much interest the account of Mr. Bridge, of Pomfret, Vt., on the culture of an acre of Indian corn, that yielded more than one hundred bushels; and, although I have often heard doubts expressed by practical cultivators of there being really one hundred bushels of sound corn grown on an acre, still there is a reasonableness in his statement that satisfies my mind of its correctness. In this statement are several facts worthy of special notice.

1. The advantageous position of the land.
2. The high state of cultivation it has been under for many years.
3. The depth to which it was ploughed — ten inches at least.
4. The quantity of manure applied being not less than fifty loads to the acre.
5. The number of hills on the ground, being about fifty per-cent. more than is usual in planting corn.
6. The thinning out the stock to three in a hill.
7. The kind of corn raised being the twelve-rowed, or that which is most productive.

If this analysis of the communication shall induce any one to reperuse it, and endeavor to imitate the cultivation, and it shall be found, from actual experiment, that the lands of Massachusetts can produce crops equal to those of the fertile fields of the Green Mountains, then the purpose of the writer will be attained.

Truly yours, P.

Danvers, *May* 28, 1849.

For the New England Farmer.

CLEARING LAND.

Mr. Editor: What is the best method to eradicate the stumps and roots of pine-trees? Is there any particular season when cutting would be more favorable than others? And what is the best way to uproot or kill barberry bushes? Also, please inform me the best mode of splitting large rocks, or tumblers, whether by fire or blasting; and oblige,

Yours, &c. L.

Editorial Remarks. — Pine stumps will generally remain sound for a long time in the ground. They are usually extracted by machines, which is a rather expensive way, as great power is necessary. Stumps may be taken up by using a large lever, some twenty or thirty feet long, according to the power to be applied. Fasten a chain or rope to the top of the lever, and then erect it by the side of the stump, placing the but-end between two roots, if convenient; then put a very stout chain around the lever, just above the stump, and fasten it to a root on the opposite side. Make a notch in the stump, and let the chain lay in it, to keep the lever in an upright position. Have a long rope from the top of the lever, that the team may be out of danger, and have greater power, from bringing the line of draught nearer a horizontal. If the power is not sufficient, cut off some of the roots opposite the lever. A lever may also be applied to a root, to aid the team.

A cheap mode of destroying stumps is to excavate beneath them, and if they are not dry, expose the roots a while during the hot season. Then make a fire under them, and lay turf around, confining the fire in a manner similar to a coal-pit. In this way the fire will be kept down, and after a few days of slow combustion, the stump and much of the roots will be consumed.

Those trees that produce sprouts should be cut in August to prevent sprouts, and of course a more ready decay of the stump and roots, as the sprouts tend to keep them alive. Pine-trees do not produce sprouts. When the trees are not felled, the roots and stumps may be taken out much cheaper with the tree. Remove the earth around the stump, and cut some roots on one side, if necessary. Then fasten a rope to the tree, up high, that the power may be great, and hitch to the rope sufficient team to pull up the tree. This gives a great power, sufficient to take up the largest trees in the forest, if they have a good height.

Solid and very hard rocks, that are much exposed, may be split by first heating them very hot, and then applying water suddenly. But in many cases, there are ledges that are full of seams, or of a soft stone that is but little affected by fire; or the situation of the rock may be such that fire cannot be applied to it conveniently. Rocks split by fire are irregular and rough, and of but little use, excepting for coarse wall or for filling up cavities. Generally, blasting by powder is the most expeditious.

When there is a chance for ploughing, barberry bushes may be most easily destroyed by this operation. If stones, rocks, or other impediments are in the way, dig out the roots with a bog hoe or iron bar.

MORGAN HORSES.

Mr. Cole: "Morgan Messenger," the colt of "Lady Messenger," is owned by General S. M. Borroughs, of Medina, N. Y., which could not be bought now for one thousand dollars, so I have been informed. He makes a large gay animal, and very swift on foot. But the dam was never "owned by said Borroughs," as stated in the Farmer of May 12, but is in the possession of Charles L. Smith, Esq., of Bristol, Vermont, who is celebrated for the breeding of fine animals. S. W. JEWETT.

Weybridge, Vt., *May*, 1849.

HOW TO GET RICH.

Almost every body wants this information. It is comprised in this advice: Be economical; be industrious; attend to your own business; never take great hazards; don't be in a hurry for wealth; never do business solely for the sake of doing it; and do not love money extravagantly.

For the New England Farmer.

ON "LARGE AND SMALL POTATOES FOR SEED."

Mr. Editor: Your correspondent, "Down East," "hopes definite experiments will be made." He asks, to close, "Will the extra produce of large potatoes be enough more to pay for the difference in the seed?" The editor justly notices "a very important subject, which is the general effect on the crop, as to improvement or degeneracy." With this expressed solicitude in view, permit me to say, I have made "definite" and accurate experiments, as I hope others will do, and report, not from estimation and recollection, but from weight and measure of seed and soil, as a matter of *record*, both at planting and harvest. From such documents, made year after year, and also others respecting renewing from the balls, I can give the items, if called for in future; from the results of which I will now offer some of my convictions.

1. Large potatoes give more vigorous shoots: both top and root are in advance of small ones, and continue decidedly so; hence, for early table use, are much to be preferred.

2. By planting them whole, they are crowded, and, unless the soil is very light, they cannot expand; and if not very rich, the feebler shoots, from the stem end especially, will, for want of nourishment and room, produce small ones.

3. Cutting them in halves gives more room, but weak shoots with strong ones, (like a titman pig in a litter,) must take what they can get which is not always enough; of course, inequality in size.

4. Cut from a large potato the largest eyes, and plant three or four in a hill, and we get more from the same weight of seed than in any other way, of large and equal sized tubers; but not as early as when the two ends are cut off, leaving the body to nourish three or four central eyes.

5. There is a difference between a potato small because it was from a feeble shoot, and one small from want of room or time to grow. The latter may do well for seed, but, having nearly as many eyes as a large one, but less vigorous, requires a light soil, that is well pulverized, to expand in, and rich, to furnish nourishment for so many shoots. The hills may be near, but should have only one in each, and delicate culture.

6. By cutting off from one third to one half of the stem end, (the best to eat,) we have the finest eyes to plant in the other end, which may be cut again if large, and give a crop nearly equal to the whole. This is economy, and no deterioration.

7. By carefully selecting, in the field, at harvest, for seed, hills in which all are large and fair, we are sure of improving our crop, both in quantity and quality. And as surely will the crop degenerate if we use and sell the best, and plant the refuse.

8. When seed is dear, and likely to continue so, it is still more desirable to be particular and plant seed that will return the most and the best.

Yours truly,

BENJAMIN WILLARD.

Wilbraham, *May* 31, 1849.

WHITE RIVER WOOL DEPOT.

A friend has furnished the following circular, which we publish with pleasure, believing that such enterprises are of general utility, giving concert of action, and tending to a uniformity of prices, and giving a permanency and constant encouragement to the business of wool-growing. As it has been managed, some have through necessity, or for want of information, sold their wool at ruinous prices, and abandoned the business.

The location of this depot is very favorable, being in the heart of an extensive wool-growing region, and at the meeting of the Northern and Passumsic Railroads with the Central, affording excellent facilities for travel and transportation.

Our friend remarks that Mr. Willard has had extensive experience in the wool business, and is well qualified to manage such an establishment. Excellent success has attended the few wool depots already in operation, and the result has been highly satisfactory to those growers who have sold their wool through such agencies. We copy as follows: —

The encouragement for the directors to open this depot, (with pledges to the amount of about 70,000 pounds,) is such that they have seen fit to make all suitable arrangements to open the same, for the reception of all grades of wool, on the 25th of June next, at the storehouse of George Lyman, near the mouth of White River, with a desire that sufficient patronage will be given to the enterprise, to make this a permanent location for future operations. All those who anticipate carrying their wool to this establishment, will do well to observe the following directions: *Wash your sheep clean;* which is more readily done, by wetting or soaking the flock before washing, or wash them soon after a rain. After washing, the sheep should be put into a clean pasture. After this, if the weather is suitable, shearing should be done in four or six days. Care should be taken to keep the fleeces clean, and do them up in good shape, exposing the finest portion of the fleece as much as convenient. Use the common sheep twine, passing it from two to four times round the fleece, drawing the strings sufficiently tight to keep it together.

If you have spring tags, it will be deemed just to put an equal quantity into each fleece, after cleansing the same.

Keep out all unwashed tags and pulled wool. Nothing but merchantable wool should be put into the fleece. It is desirable all wool should be deposited by the 10th of August. The following rules will be strictly observed at the depot: —

Each depositor, when he brings his wool, will receive a certificate of deposit, stating the number of fleeces, weight, &c.; and as soon as convenient, he will have a statement furnished him of the grading and condition of the same. All who wish can have liberal advances, by allowing six per cent. for the same till the sale of his wool.

From three to ten fleeces will be opened from each lot, to ascertain the condition.

The fleeces will be thrown into different sorts, by an experienced wool-sorter, according to style and quality. He will have no knowledge of the ownership of any lot of wool, so that all partiality will be avoided.

A discrimination will be made between wool in good and bad condition.

All who desire can have their wool kept separate. Sales will be made invariably for cash.

The charges will be for receiving, storing, sorting, and selling, one cent per pound, and about twenty-five cents on one hundred dollars for insurance, providing it does not exceed three months.

Arrangements have been made with manufacturers, using the different grades of wool, to purchase the various sorts, at their fair market value, as soon as the directors and agent may see fit to make a price upon the same.

Good and sufficient bonds have been furnished by

the agent, for his faithful discharge of duty. Arrangements have been made with the proprietors of the two toll bridges in this vicinity, to let all pass for half toll who are carrying their wool to this depot.

Clark Hough, George Dewey, Geo. W. Cuttin, Merrit Farnam, } *New Hampshire.*
John Porter, Allen Hazen, Nathan Cushing, Eben'r Bridge, } *Vermont.*

AMMI WILLARD, *Agent.*

P. S. There are but two other establishments of this kind in the country. Both of these received last season 1,500,000 pounds of wool, and all has been sold at satisfactory prices.

Woodstock, *May* 24, 1849.

AGRICULTURE IN MAINE.

In the late message of Governor Dana to the legislature of Maine, we find the following sensible remarks on the importance of agricultural education, and the propriety of exempting a suitable amount of the debtor's property from the power of the creditor, instead of specific articles. We trust that so valuable suggestions will be duly appreciated by the intelligent body to whose action they are submitted.

The products of agricultural labor are undoubtedly of greater value than the combined products of all other labor in the state; and yet that pursuit attracts less of general attention than any other. From its unobtrusiveness it has allowed itself to be nearly overlooked, although the great interest of the state. The farmer sows his seed, watches its springing and maturity, reaps his harvest, and enjoys its fruits in quiet and contentment, asking no protection or legislation. But his interests should not be neglected because he makes no clamor in the halls of legislation. I presume it would not be doubted, that the general application of science to agriculture throughout the state, would double our agricultural products, with but a slight increase of labor. Such an addition to the productions, resources, and wealth of the state, is an object worthy the highest solicitude, and should command your earnest consideration. But with our present means of education, little advance can be made towards its accomplishment. There is not in the state, and probably not in New England, an institution where a practical, scientific agricultural education can be obtained. Three fourths of our population are farmers; three fourths of the rising generation will be farmers; and yet there is no opportunity for one, of all this number, to obtain an education adapted to, and in aid of, his vocation. True, we have our high schools, academies, and colleges, — many of them liberally endowed by the state, — but they all fail to give him an appropriate education; for, instead of fitting him for his destined pursuit, and rendering it pleasing to him, his course of studies and the associations and influences around him, all tend to give him a distaste for it, and to invite to other professions and callings, where he will be far less useful to himself and the community. If, then, the object of education is to fit man for the duties of life, a large majority of our population have no opportunity for obtaining it.

In my annual message to the legislature of 1847, I suggested the establishment of an agricultural and teacher's seminary, under the direction of the board of education, and proposed that, when its finances would permit, the state should support, at that seminary, a small given number of scholars from each county, to be selected by their respective boards of school committees, as a reward of merit and proficiency. The chief design of this feature of my suggestion, was to give a stimulus to the interest of both parents and children, in our public schools; but it would probably be attended with too much expense for the present condition of the treasury. An agricultural school, divested of this more expensive feature, as a model, and as a commencement of a system of agricultural schools, is an immediate want, and within our immediate means. The interest of the permanent school fund, which is still unappropriated, is more than sufficient for that purpose; and if, as I have already suggested, the proceeds of the reserved lands should be added to this fund, the interest of both combined would, besides sustaining such a school, furnish the means for increased facilities for the education of teachers, either by the establishment of normal schools, or by prolonging the sessions of our institutes.

The policy of exempting a portion of the property of the debtor from attachment, for the double purpose of enabling him to supply the necessities of himself and family, and of furnishing him with facilities wherewith he may ultimately relieve himself from his debts, has ever been recognized by our laws, and is both humane and wise. But I am convinced that the exemption of a fixed amount of property, of such description as the debtor might select, whether personal or real, instead of the list of specific articles now exempted, would be advantageous both to debtor and creditor; because each individual debtor could then retain the property best adapted to his circumstances, and calculated to afford the most aid in accomplishing the objects for which the exemption was made. Under the present law, it may often occur, that the property retained, although the amount may be large, is of little benefit to the debtor retaining it; whereas, if a much less value were secured to him, in precisely the property which his situation required, the ends of protection would be more nearly attained. But another important objection to our exemption of specific articles is, that no real estate is included. If the present exemption of personal property does not conflict with the rights of the creditor, the exemption of the same value, in either personal or real estate, surely could not; while, at the same time, it would be far more useful to the debtor. He is now allowed the products of a farm, tools, horses, and oxen to cultivate it, but no farm; thus encouraged to obtain the implements of husbandry, but forced to use them upon the farm of another; induced to assume the relation of a tenant, while the true interests, alike of the debtor, creditor, and the state, would invite him to become a freeholder.

TO ASCERTAIN THE WEIGHT OF LIVE CATTLE.

This is of the utmost utility to all those who are not experienced judges by eye. By the following directions the weight can be ascertained, within a mere trifle: Take a string, put it round the breast, stand square, just behind the shoulder blade; measure on a foot rule the feet and inches the animal is in circumference — this is called girth; then, with the string, measure from the bone of the tail which plumps the line with the hinder part of the buttock, direct the line along the back to the fore part of the shoulder blade, take the dimensions on the foot rule as before — which is the length; and work the figures in the following manner: Girth of the bullock, six feet four inches; length, five feet four inches — which, multiplied together, make thirty-one square superficial feet; and that multiplied by twenty-three

(the number of pounds allowed to each superficial foot of cattle measuring less than seven and more than five in girth) makes seven hundred and thirteen pounds. Where the animal measures less than nine and more than seven in girth, thirty-one is the pounds to each superficial foot. Again, suppose a pig, or any small beast, should measure two feet in girth, and two along the back, which multiplied together make four square feet; that multiplied by eleven, the number of pounds allowed each square foot of cattle measuring less than three feet in girth, makes forty-four pounds. Again, suppose a calf, a sheep, &c., should measure four feet six inches in girth, and three feet nine inches in length, which multiplied together makes fifteen and one fourth square feet; that multiplied by sixteen, the number of pounds allowed to all cattle measuring less than five feet, and more than three in girth, makes two hundred and sixty-five pounds. The dimensions of the girth and length of horned cattle, sheep, calves, or hogs, may be as exactly taken this way as it is at all necessary for any computation or any valuation of stock, and will answer exactly to the four quarters, sinking the offal, and which every man who can get a bit of chalk can easily perform. — *Chambers's Information for the People.*

BUCKWHEAT OR POLYGONUM FAGOPYRUM.

Buckwheat is said to be a native of Persia, and is usually sown on poor land, although, like other cultivated plants, it does best on a good soil with good culture. Its blossoms yield considerable food for bees, although the honey thus obtained is inferior to that made from clover. Buckwheat meal or flour is much used in some sections of the United States for making griddle cakes. The seeds of this plant contain fifty per cent. of starch, and one and one half per cent. of earthy matter. It is often sown and the crop ploughed in, to fertilize poor land. From one to two bushels of seed are put on.

Buckwheat without Grit. — Did any person, who eats buckwheat cakes, ever have the good fortune to get any containing not a particle of grit? A method not generally known was lately stated to us by a practical farmer, who says that buckwheat raised in this way is entirely free from the difficulty.

The buckwheat is sown at the usual time; but before harrowing, a bushel of rye is sown with it to the acre: they both come up together, and the buckwheat, being much the most rapid in growth, soon obtains the ascendency, the rye only forming a smooth, green carpet beneath, which completely prevents the dashing of the grit of the soil by rain upon the buckwheat, when it is cut, and otherwise keeps it clean. After the crop of buckwheat is removed, the rye obtains sufficient growth before winter, and the next season affords a good crop of itself. Thus the buckwheat is protected, and two crops obtained from a single seeding. — *Pennsylvania Cultivator.*

TO MAKE FARMING PROFITABLE.

General Josiah Newhall, in his excellent address before the Essex Agricultural Society, last fall, shows the importance of energy and timely attention in order to make farming profitable. We make the following extract: —

Farming may be so conducted as to be made profitable, or merely to afford a living, or to run out the farm. Taking the land as it averages in the state, this depends more on the farmer than on the soil. The man who makes no provision for the raising of his crops, cannot reasonably expect any. Agriculture, like all other business, to be made profitable, must be conducted with some method as well as energy. What would be thought of the merchant, who should neglect to load his ships, and let them lie deteriorating at his wharf, or send them to sea half loaded or manned, and without funds for a return cargo; or the manufacturer, who should run his machinery without system or order, and let it stand still upon every trivial occasion, while the pay of his operatives was going on? Would not such a course bring irretrievable ruin? And can the result be more favorable to the farmer, who, though possessing hundreds of acres of land upon which he is annually paying taxes, and who makes no adequate provision for the cultivation or improvement of which, with the exception of a few acres, and that cultivated in such a manner as not to afford a compensating return for the labor bestowed? Although the soil, in some parts of the county, is gravelly or sandy, still it may be made to produce rich harvests. The farmers have within their reach ample resources to convert their lands to a state of great fertility. The farmers of no section of the state are more highly favored in this respect. On the eastern border of the county, the broad Atlantic rolls in upon the beaches her fertilizing materials in great abundance. Upon the rocks, between high and low water, grow weeds, containing the elements of vegetable nutrition in a high degree. At some seasons of the year, a certain kind of fish may be taken along the shore, with seines, in great quantities, and be made valuable in the formation of compost, or in the direct application to the land. The bays and inlets along the coast abound in beds of muscle of great value; and in different sections of the county there are vast deposits of peat, amounting, in the aggregate, to many thousand acres. Providence seems to have made ample provision by these bogs for the fertilization of the soil for ages to come. While in tropical climates the decay of vegetable matter is complete, and becomes resolved into its original elements, in this temperate region the process is less rapid, and in certain situations abounding with water, the decomposing process is arrested, and peat accumulates. In this situation it abounds with acidity, and is inert when applied as the food of plants. Within a few years, peat lands were considered among the least valuable, having been sold from five to ten dollars an acre, while their intrinsic value is hundreds, nay, thousands of dollars for the purpose of manure; to say nothing of their value as an article of fuel, some of which is but little inferior to coal. This substance, to be rendered available in agriculture, should be dug in the autumn and exposed to the ameliorating influences of the atmosphere during the severity of the winter. Farmers having barn cellars (and none should be without) will find that by using this material largely under their stables, to absorb the liquid and mix with the solid deposits of their animals, they may double or triple the amount of their manure, and the quality will be far better than that not protected from the wasting influence of the elements. The whole may be well mixed, and suffered to ferment so far as to expel any remains of acidity; and the whole mass becomes equally valuable for all thin and gravelly soils as clear animal manure, and having a more permanent effect.

SANDY PLAINS.

Clay, ashes, decomposed or rotten manure, with clover, it is said, has proved to be the best means of improving sandy plain lands. Plaster is useful in situations where it will act. This can be ascertained by trial.

THE BIRDS.

It has been truly said that the birds are the cultivator's best friends. They not only enliven the scene of his labors with sweet music, and beautify it with their fine appearance, but render essential service by destroying legions of insects, which otherwise might increase, and destroy many crops, or prevent their production by destroying the tender plants.

Of all the enemies and disadvantages that the farmer encounters, none are so formidable as insects. Others he may conquer and manage, but these minute, often imperceptible, creatures devastate whole fields, in spite of all opposition.

The birds, in their industrial labors to procure food for themselves and offspring, are constantly destroying insects; and they are admirably adapted to this purpose, and will accomplish what man cannot. The millions of insects which they consume annually, and the thousands of millions which they prevent by their timely labors, are beyond calculation. Without their aid, many crops would be unprofitable, or a total failure, and we should find barren fields, instead of the lands that now smile with plenty, and gaunt famine might stalk over those countries now blessed with abundance.

Since the great utility of birds is well known to every one who reflects on the subject, how important that they be protected, and encouraged to be the familiar associates and assistants of the farmer and gardener! We should have laws throughout the country for their protection against the heartless sportsman, or cruel boys, who would kill the innocent and useful birds, or rob their nests. In some towns, it has been wisely ordained that no birds shall be killed or entrapped; and this subject is worthy the attention of every town.

Those wanton boys who trifle with the feelings and rights of birds by destroying them, robbing their nests, or confining their young, should consider what awful feelings would becloud their minds, should some stranger tear them from their happy home, and from their father, mother, brothers, sisters, and friends, and shut them up in the gloom of a prison. Birds have feelings as well as human beings, and He that made them for wise purposes will look with displeasure on the wanton sport of the wicked boy who molests them.

Even those birds that are regarded by some as mischievous, are among the most useful. The crow devours immense numbers of worms. He seldom does injury excepting in pulling up a little corn in spring; and this may be prevented by feeding him. As he works for the farmer, he should occasionally share in his bounty, as well as the ox, the horse, or the dog.

The woodpecker is charged with injuring trees by pecking them full of holes; but he is invited to this business from the defection of the tree, and he labors to relieve it from the depredations of insects. He is as harmlessly and usefully employed as the man with his chisel and mallet, cutting the borers out of the tree.

CAULIFLOWERS.

I have been eating delicious cauliflowers all winter, thanks to your directions in the Horticulturist. I sowed seed for the winter crop about the middle of May, and when winter approached I lifted the plants in a damp day, with a little earth attached to the roots, and set them on the floor of a warm cellar, under one of my out-buildings. They were most of them not even showing the least signs of flowering when they were put in the cellar, and I confess I was a little incredulous as to their "coming to any thing" in their winter quarters. But they soon began to form blossom crowns, and I have cut the whitest and most delicious cauliflowers from these plants since last December that I have ever tasted. As this mode of treating cauliflowers is not generally known here, I have quite astonished my neighbors by the sight of such a fine winter vegetable in abundance. — *Horticulturist.*

WORTH TRYING FOR.

The London Athenæum says that the Belgium government has instituted a prize of five thousand francs, with a gold medal and one thousand francs respectively, the first for the best work on general agriculture, and the second for the best treatise on the disease of the potatoes. Foreigners are invited to compete, and manuscripts are to be sent to the Ministry for the Interior before the 1st of January in next year.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

So much attention is now turned to raising sheep in the west, and on the high lands at the south, where they can be wintered at a small expense, that the producers of wool in New England will, by and by, find more powerful competition from their own countrymen, than from foreign production.

But the farmers of New England, who can readily adapt themselves to circumstances, will find the raising of fat mutton and ordinary wool more profitable than fine wool. The numerous large cities, and the thousands of flourishing towns and villages, that are rapidly increasing or suddenly starting into existence, from the enterprise in the three great branches of industry, agriculture, manufactures, and commerce, will create a great demand for fine mutton, especially when people learn its superiority to other meats now used to a greater extent; and the numerous railroad and steamboat communications, and the use of ice, will afford advantages for bringing fresh lamb or mutton from every hill and dale in New England, or the animals may be transported to market, with economy, and without injury from the journey. There will be a gradual change. The west will produce fine wool, and the east fine mutton.

The following article from the Ohio Cultivator will interest many of our readers: —

The Prospects for Sheep and Wool for 1849.

Thousands of sheep were killed, both east and west, in 1848, not as the result of an over-stock, but owing to discouragement under the current prices. The close of the last winter has raised the price of wool from seven to ten cents per pound. The consequence is, that many wish their dead sheep alive again; or wish to stock up with a new supply. From present appearances, wool is going to do well for several years to come. The reasons are these, for such an opinion: —

1. The tariff, if changed at all, will be so modified as to promote increased protection to our own manufactures. We shall have at least the protection of the tariff of 1842, and this is all that manufacturers ask.

2. The great and constantly increasing influx of foreigners, together with the natural increase of our own population, will call for a greater supply of manufactured goods, and of course create demand. Our population is increasing at the rate of two thousand a day; of course spindles will be increased to supply their wants. Nearly one million a year is now annually added to our numbers. Our flocks and our herds must be increased in proportion.

3. We are able to compete more and more successfully with some portions of the manufacturing districts of the old world. We are pushing our manufactures abroad and supplanting theirs.

4. Sheep and wool are successfully raised and improved, and no agricultural investment is found to require less labor or yield greater profits. To prove this, we have only to point to the fact that nearly every farmer, who for a series of years has steadily pursued the cultivation of sheep and wool, has become rich and independent — out of debt — houses and land around him, and abounding in comforts and enjoyments.

5. The grain-growing regions of Ohio are well adapted to sheep, and farmers are finding out that sheep are good consumers of their straw, chaff, corn fodder, &c., much of which now goes to waste. The raising of wheat and wool go well together. What is left of wheat the sheep consume.

For these and many such reasons we believe that sheep and wool are looking ahead with good prospects — prospects never brighter. Sheep husbandry promises to be a healthy pursuit, paying satisfactory and suitably remunerating prices, with no vanishing and exploding inflation. We want nothing that will prove a disappointment. A sound business is the best. The profits of sheep husbandry are good enough. We want nothing better.

Example. A buys one hundred two-year-old ewes, after shearing, at one hundred dollars. He buys a buck, if he can find one, pure Merino, for twenty dollars. This is his investment. He pastures them on land worth twenty dollars per acre. He needs twenty acres for a year's feeding, summer and winter, and good land well stocked in grass will supply them. Well selected ewes will yield four pounds a head. With good management he may raise ninety lambs. The account will stand thus: —

Capital Stock.

20 acres of land,	$400
100 ewes,	100
	$500

Receipts.

400 pounds wool,	$100
95 lambs, $1 each,	95
	$195

Expenses.

Interest on capital,	$30
Shearing, &c.,	10
Deaths, 2 per cent.,	2
Waste of flock, 10 per cent.,	10
	$52

Which, deducted from above, leaves profits, $143

This profit will be greatly diminished the second year. These lambs will not produce lambs, but simply wool; and they will not do it till two years old, and ought not till three years old. The greater the flock, the less the profit. But it will be more than twenty-five per cent. interest, under good management, at present prices of wool. Sheep that will not shear four pounds a head should not be purchased, and these should be crossed with the heavy shearing Merino. At the lowest calculation, no business exceeds that of wool-growing for profit.

A WESTERN WOOL-GROWER.

Cleveland, *May* 10, 1849.

EXPERIMENTS ON SALMON, SALMON FRY, AND EELS.

Strange as it seems, it would certainly appear from his [Mr. Young, manager of the duke of Sutherland's fisheries] observations, that a salmon may be kept for any length of time in a river without growing beyond the weight of two to four ounces, and he showed me specimens of salmon which, though of perfect form and condition, did not exceed that size; whereas, had they been allowed to reach the sea, they would at the same age have weighed from six to ten pounds each. The growth of salmon when in the sea is wonderful, it having been indisputably proved, that a salmon has grown eleven pounds six ounces during the short period of five weeks and two days; the fish, having been marked on its passage to the sea, was caught again in the same river, when ascending after an interval of that duration. Mr. Young told me also that his young family of salmon fry, which he hatched and kept confined in ponds connected with

the river always become perfectly tame, and the moment that he steps on the plank laid across the ponds for the purpose of feeding the fish from, they all flock round him, ready to dart at the food he puts in. In some of the ponds he had put a number of small eels, which soon grew in size, and became as tame and familiar as the young salmon. As the cold weather came on, the eels all disappeared, and he supposed that they had managed to escape, led by their instinct to take refuge in some deeper pools. However, one fine spring day, when he had long ceased to think of his slimy pets, he happened to pass over one of the planks, when he was delighted to see them all issue out from under the stones, asking for food, as if a day only, instead of many weeks, had passed since he last had fed them. Does not this most clearly prove that eels lie dormant during cold weather? — *Mr. St. John's Tour in Sutherlandshire.*

SPECIAL MANURES FOR RUTA-BAGA TURNIPS.

The result of the application of artificial manures in increasing the average produce of ground, cannot but be interesting to the agricultural community, even though these experiments should not have been conducted on American soil; and as every successful result leads to the extended use of special manures, and in most cases to more economical farming, I submit the following instance of what has been accomplished in raising turnips by their means.

Having been applied to, in the spring of 1844, by the steward of Lord Charlemont, to analyze a sample of soil from the estate lying two miles from Dublin, and to point out how the soil might be improved so as to grow Swedish (ruta-baga) turnips for a prize crop, I found, after examination, that the soil was in good condition, having been manured the summer previous, but that it was to a small extent destitute of potash salts and phosphate of lime to the degree that a heavy crop would require to find readily in the soil. On this account the following manure was recommended: —

56	pounds	pearlashes,
28	"	nitrate of soda,
14	"	coarse Epsom salts,
56	"	bone dust,

to be mixed in with ditch scourings, road sweepings, some burnt earth, and other refuse off the farm, so as to make the compost sufficiently bulky; the whole to be laid on a statute acre.

The object in using nitrate of soda was twofold. First, it supplied the small quantity of soda found in turnip ash, (ten pounds in every twenty tons,) and then, the form in which it is added, containing, as it does, nitrogen, (nitric acid,) rendered it peculiarly serviceable in pushing on the early growth of the turnip. The bone dust and pearlash were supplied because the crop required them; and the Epsom salts, because it was desired to put in wheat immediately after into the soil.

The result of this manure more than equalled expectation; their size was superior to any exhibited, and they received the first prize from the Royal Agricultural Society of Ireland, as well on that account as for the total yield, amounting to fifty-six tons the English acre.

The above-named manure cost about six dollars per acre; and whether we consider it in the way of economy, or of an addition having a wonderful effect in stimulating vegetation, it recommends itself strongly to notice. The wheat crop following was one third greater yield than usual, or more than a portion of the ground unmanured did yield. As this compost was applied to a soil in rather a good state, with the object of forcing a great growth, there is no reason why the same special manure might not be applied to all soils intended for swedes, and where condition is not exhausted by neglect of manuring.

THOMAS ANTISELL.

Laboratory of the American Agricultural Association, March 7, 1849.

— *American Agriculturist.*

TRUE PRINCIPLES OF FEEDING.

If persons engaged in this pursuit would only use that sense which God has provided them with, and which is generally styled *common*, the business would be divested of a great deal of its mystery. Some people will say that it is much easier to find out what is wrong than to say what is right; and this is true to a certain degree; but regarding the cultivation of the land, there are certain inviolable principles which should always be kept in view; and these I will endeavor to enumerate. The first that strikes me is the clearing of the ground: it is absurd to think of trying to grow grain under trees in a wood, nor is it sufficient to take away a part of them, — I mean, of course, with the idea of perfection. For instance, suppose you have fifty trees on an acre; that is, about one to every three square rods; the soil capable of bearing fifty bushels of wheat, or one bushel to each tree; and suppose that you cut down forty-nine of them, you will only be able to grow forty-nine bushels, instead of fifty; the annual waste or cost of that tree being the value of one bushel of wheat, or whatever crop might have been on the three rods of ground which that tree monopolized. Therefore, if it is necessary to clear the land before you can grow grain, it is reasonable and self-evident that it should be entirely cleared, every fractional part you leave doing injury in its degree.

The next point to notice is the dryness or wetness of the soil: see if the stagnant water is sufficiently near the surface to do injury to the crops, even by capillary attraction, which, science tells us, will raise water four feet, and practice has shown that it must not be nearer; therefore, if the stagnant water be nearer than four feet, drain it to that depth. It is absurd to attempt to cultivate land against so powerful an enemy as water. Thirdly, we consider "the pulverization of the soil." Ought it to be pulverized at all? To this question I think our common sense will give an answer in the affirmative, so that the plant may more easily expand its roots to seek for nourishment in the soil, which soil and which pulverization should extend as far as the roots of the plant; but is it common sense to think that five or six inches only is the distance that the roots of plants extend? I will not take advantage of a few facts that have been noticed of the immense depths that roots descend, but merely appeal to common sense, and ask whether it is not reasonable to suppose that the roots beneath extend as far as the plants above the soil; and, if so, ought not the soil to be pulverized to that extent, viz., about four feet?

The first expense of this, I am aware, renders it almost impracticable; but this I cannot help. I cannot alter the true principles of nature. I must assert, with common sense, that the deeper you pulverize, the more you move in a right direction.

W. G. G.

— *Gard. Chronicle.*

Spare minutes are the gold dust of time; and Young was writing a true as well as a striking line, when he affirmed that "sands make the mountain, moments make the year." Of all the portions of our life, the spare minutes are the most fruitful in good or evil. They are gaps through which temptations find the easiest access to the garden.

Domestic Department.

FEMALE EDUCATION: AMUSEMENTS. — The amount of time foolishly wasted by females is really deplorable; at an age, too, in which their exertions are so much needed. With due respect to your correspondent "Eva," I think single-handed manufacturing in families, though once an indispensable duty, would be poor economy of time and labor in our day, when superior fabrics may be produced by machinery, at much less cost, though, under some circumstances, an occasional buzz of the spinning wheel may be expedient. Our duties, however, are not diminished, but, on the contrary, increased by the improvements of the age in which we live. Woman's sphere is enlarged beyond the limits of the broad rim of the spinning wheel, and is still enlarging. While our duties and responsibilities increase, we are held accountable for much that our grandmothers never dreamed of.

> "New occasions teach new duties;
> Time makes olden good uncouth;
> They must upward still and onward,
> Who would keep abreast of truth."

The time is coming when domestic duties are expected to be performed upon scientific principles; and we are bound to employ every means in our power to make ourselves acquainted with the sciences pertaining to our domestic affairs. A knowledge of chemistry and dietetics, in a cook, is invaluable to a family. Information regarding the laws of health, and life, and mental philosophy, is absolutely necessary to the proper rearing of children. The suffering I have seen and experienced for want of knowledge, and the almost incredible advantage gained by the application of a few practical ideas, makes me very desirous for others, as well as myself, that we should have "more light."

I think, however, it is not proper that we should always be in performance of the sober duties of life. Nature does not bestow all her care on the sturdy oak and mountain pine, but adorns the landscape with an endless variety of fanciful colors and forms, enlivens the whole with music, and the frolicsome play of animated beings. Nor did she fail to implant in the human mind faculties harmonizing with the beauty, melody, and gayety of external nature, which find a legitimate sphere of action in ornamental horticulture, vocal and instrumental music, &c. An evening dance of an hour in a family, in which old and young, parents and children, may join, is at once conducive to the improvement of social feelings, and furnishes, at the same time, a wholsome relaxation from care, and greatly promotes longevity and health. AMANDA.

— *Am. Agriculturist.*

KEEPING LEMONS FRESH. — I have been a housekeeper for some years, and never, till lately, have I been able to keep lemons fresh and juicy for any length of time. But with all my care, — now in this closet, now in that — now wrapped in paper, now packed in bran — now in a cool place, and now in a dry one, — they would dry up and become hard as wood. Of late, however, I have preserved them perfectly fresh three months in summer, by placing them in a closely-covered jar, or pot, kept in the ice-house.

Each lemon is wrapped up in paper, (perhaps they would do as well without,) but opened and wiped once in ten or twelve days, then covered again with dry paper, and put back into the jar, or earthen vessel, on the ice. MOTHER HUBBARD.

OTSEGO CO., N. Y., *Feb.* 24, 1849.

— *Ibid.*

Boys' Department.

From the Illustrated Natural History.

DO ANIMALS REASON? The Alpine hares, says Pennant, in August begin to cut great quantities of soft, tender grass and other herbs, which they spread out to dry. This hay, about autumn, they collect into large heaps, and place either beneath the overhanging rocks, or round the trunks of trees, in conical heaps of various sizes, according to the number of the society that make them. They select the best of vegetables, and crop them when in the fullest vigor, which they make into the best and greenest hay, by the judicious manner in which they dry it. The common squirrel makes a nest of moss and dried leaves at the forks of a tree's branches, with two holes at opposite sides, and, as the wind varies, shuts the hole towards it. It lays up magazines of nuts, acorns, fruit, and berries for winter, never touching them till wanted. The field-man collects large stores, &c., in the same manner; the German harvester makes large chambers for grain, beans, and peas, each in a separate cell, sometimes a hundred pounds weight in the whole. The tuition which quadrupeds are capable of receiving, discovers a lower degree of that improvability which distinguishes our superior race, which, as far as it extends, resembles ours, although at the same time it marks its specific difference by its unvarying limitation. Blumenbach's ape would manage wood for the stove, and put it in with as much judgment and economy as a servant. He was often at the college, and used to examine the pupils' specimens with amusing imitation and grimace. One day he found a work on insects on the table, which he studied with great gravity; but a person, on entering the room an hour afterwards, found that the ape had, with great dexterity, pinched out all the beetles of the large plates, and eaten them, mistaking the pictures for real insects. This was an unlucky, but not a foolish action. Vosmaer had an orang which was taught to eat with a spoon and fork, and picked out his strawberries one by one from a plate. Getting loose one day, it uncorked a bottle of Malaga wine, drank it off, and put the bottle in its place. Seeing others open its chain padlock with a key, it put a bit of stick into the key-hole, and turned it about in all directions to unlock it itself. A black sow was taught to find game, and to bark and stand nearly as well as a pointer. When very young she became attached to some pointed puppies, and the keeper resolved to try her. He gave her some pudding of barley-meal as her reward, and threw stones at her when she did wrong. By this mode he soon taught her what he wished. As soon as the game she pointed rose, she always returned for her reward. The quadruped animals, of their own will and nature, and from inborn instincts, do actions which require knowledge, reasoning, and judgment in mankind. Reindeer follow a leader which they implicitly obey; antelopes run in a regular file, led by an older one. Elephants make their journeys on this plan. Many animals are found to make defensive arrangements. A Cape baboon having taken off some cloths from the barracks, Lieutenant Shipp formed a party to recover them. "With twenty men, I made a circuit to cut them off from the caverns to which they always fled for shelter. They observed my movements, and detaching about fifty to guard the entrance, the others kept their post. We could see them collecting large stones and other missiles. One old gray-headed one, who had often paid us a visit at the barracks, was seen distributing his orders as if a general. We rushed on to the attack, when, on a scream from him, they rolled enormous stones upon us, so that we were forced to give up the contest." When

bisons scent the approach of wolves, the herd throw themselves into the form of a circle, placing the weakest in the middle and the strongest outside, and thus present an impenetrable forest of horns. The black bear's method of fishing is as dexterous as any schoolboy's could be. Setting on his hind paws on the bank of a river or lake, he continues so motionless that he might be mistaken for the burnt stump of a tree. He has sometimes deceived even the practised eye of an Indian. With incredible celerity, he seizes with his right paw the fish that pass by him. He seems to know that morning and evening are the time for fishing. The following is Mad'lle De Laistre's account of her weasel. "It plays with my fingers like a kitten, jumps on my head and neck, and if I present my hands at the distance of three feet, it jumps into them without ever missing. But it is impossible to open a drawer, or a box, or even to look at a paper, but he will look at it also." Building skill appears in the beaver's construction as in any human fabrication of a cottage. Foreseeing caution is shown by many animals by their placing sentinels to watch and give alarm of danger. The bobac, which inhabits the dry and sunny places of the mountains, go in search of food in the morning and middle of the day, placing a sentinel to give warning of approaching danger. The mountain marmots place sentinels upon a rock while the rest make hay. If the sentinel sees a man, an eagle, or a dog, he alarms his companions by a loud whistle, and is the last to enter his hole. Wild asses, llamas, Siberian horses, and antelopes place sentinels. The sheep on the Welsh mountains feed in companies, and one is set as sentinel. If this sees any one advancing, it looks at him till he comes within eighty or one hundred yards; and if he still approaches, he alarms his comrades by a loud whistle, two or three times repeated, and all scamper off to the steepest parts. The Alpine marmots lodge together in subterranean apartments, and their labor for collecting materials for these is carried on in common. Some cut the finest herbage, and others collect it. To transport this, one lies down on his back, and extending his limbs for that purpose, allows himself to be loaded. Others trail him, thus loaded, by his tail to the place. All the instances which occur, in these classes of beings, of coöperating action for some common end, show the intention and desire to unite their efforts for that purpose, and, therefore, a mind that designs, perceives, comprehends, wills, operates, to produce it. This quality is shown by the rat leading a blind one by a straw which he puts into his companion's mouth. The migrating squirrels, when they come to a river which they wish to cross, draw a piece of birch bark to the edge of the water, mount on it, abandon themselves to the waves, raising their tails to catch the wind. The Cayenne opossum shows it; when it cannot reach the crab, upon which it lives, with its paw, it thrusts in its long, prehensile tail, to hook them out. The honey weasel shows it. Towards sunset he issues from his hole. Near this he sits upright, and holds one of his paws before his eyes, in order to modify the rays of the sun. When he sees the bees he is looking for, he knows they are going home, and he takes care to keep in the same direction, in order to find them. When Messrs. Condamnie and Bouger were measuring the length of a degree in Peru, some large monkeys were admitted into their rooms, during the time they were making their observations on the mountains. These animals, of their own accord, went through a series of imitations of their actions. They planted the signals, ran to the pendulum, and then to the table, as if to commit their remarks to paper. They occasionally pointed the telescope to the skies, as if to survey the stars. It is related of an orang that belonged to Mr. Grant, that, after a lady had given him cold water instead of tea for several times, he showed great vexation at it, and, to know whether it was so, put in his finger. Observing this, she gave him hot water, which scalded him. After that, he always put in a spoon or a piece of wood first, and touched the spoon. This action was very like human reflection. — *Valley Farmer.*

Health.

The Laws of Health. — Let us learn from prize-fighters. In the regimen that the prize-fighters submit themselves to, we may see the secret of acquiring the greatest strength and power of endurance. It is to be strictly temperate in all things; to avoid all debilitating stimulants, such as alcoholic drinks, tea, coffee, tobacco, &c.; to rise early; to take abundance of exercise in the open air; to bathe often, and observe the most rigid system of cleanliness, and abstain from all licentious practices. Those noted for pedestrian feats subject themselves to the same regimen. If it may be done from such ignoble motives, how much easier should it be to practise the same system for the greatest of blessings — health! — *Philadelphia Ledger.*

Injury from Bleeding.— The too free use of the lancet, which Dr. Reid called a "minute instrument of mighty mischief," is thus condensed by Dr. Brigham in his report of the Utica Lunatic Asylum to the New York legislature: —

"Many of the patients sent to this institution have been injured by too much bleeding and depletion before they were committed to our care. Some, we think, have been rendered incurable by this treatment; and we cannot forbear remarking, that in our opinion the work of Dr. Rush on the "Diseases of the Mind," in which directions are given to bleed copiously in maniacal excitement, has done much harm, and we fear is still exercising a bad influence; and we hope no future edition will be issued without notes appended to correct the errors into which the distinguished author has fallen for want of the numerous facts which have been furnished since his time, and which enable us to see the errors of our predecessors."

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

Preservation of Timber for Sleepers. — Messrs. Hutin and Boutighy have obtained a patent in France for the preservation of wood intended for railway sleepers; the process of which depends on filling the pores at each end with a bituminous cement, after the ends have been previously charred. The process is thus described: "Immerse the ends of a piece of wood in some liquid carburetted hydrogen, such, for instance, as the oil of schist, which penetrates quickly some distance into the wood. 2. Set this carburetted hydrogen on fire, and at the moment the flame has burnt out, plunge the wood, to the height of a few inches, into a hot mixture of pitch, tar, and shellac, which will be slightly drawn up between the fibres, and form, at each extremity of the wood, a kind of hermetical seal, unalterable by moisture and air. 3. Coat the wood with tar over its whole surface by the ordinary methods." A process nearly similar was not long since communicated to the Paris Academy of Sciences, by M. Gemmi. In his plan, tar is used for the purpose of filling the pores of the wood, without the addition

of any substances. He encloses the wood in a cylinder, wherein it is desiccated by high pressure steam. A vacuum is then produced, and additional force is given to the tar in its penetration of the fibres of the wood by a force pump. — *Selected.*

GUTTA PERCHA. — This wonderful article is just now engaging the public attention; as well it may, for it will be used to a far greater extent than India rubber is. The tree is found in great abundance at Singapore and its vicinity. Dense forests of it are found at the southern extremity of the Malayan peninsula. The tree is called *niato* by the Sarawak people, but they are not acquainted with the properties of the sap; it attains to considerable size, even as large as six feet in diameter; is plentiful in Sarawak, and most probably all over the island of Borneo. The tree is stated to be one of the largest in the forest in which it is found. The timber is too loose and open for building purposes; but the tree bears a fruit which yields a concrete oil, used for food.

Gutta percha is contained in the sap and milky juice, which quickly coagulates on exposure to the air; from twenty to thirty pounds being the average produce of one tree. For collecting the sap, the trees are felled, barked, and left dry and useless; so great is the demand for the gutta, the importation of which already reaches many hundred tons annually. Hence the forests will soon be cleared of the gutta trees; whereas it is believed that a constant and moderate supply might be secured by incisions, as in the case of caoutchouc.

The gutta is received in scraps, or in rolls of thin layers. It is first freed from impurities by deviling, or kneading in hot water, when it is left soft and plastic, and of a whitish gray color.

When thus prepared, the gutta has many curious properties. Below the temperature of fifty degrees, it is as hard as wood; but it will soon receive an indentation from the fingers. When softened in hot water, it may be easily cut and moulded; and it will harden to its former rigidity; and it may be softened and hardened any number of times without injury to the material. Unlike caoutchouc, it has little elasticity; but it has such tenacity, that a slip, one eighth of an inch substance, sustained forty-two pounds weight, and only broke with a pressure of fifty-six pounds. When drawn out, it remains without contracting.

In solution, gutta is applied, like caoutchouc, for water-proofing cloth. It is likewise used for numerous purposes for which leather is used; in mastics and cements, &c. In short, it promises to become as important an article of commerce as caoutchouc itself.

The name is a pure Malayan one; *gutta* meaning the gum or concrete juice of a plant, and *percha* the particular tree from which this is procured. The *ch* is not pronounced hard, like a *k*, but like the *ch* in the English name of the fish *perch*. It has been suggested to Dr. Montgomery, that the gutta percha would be found useful in stopping decayed teeth. — *Valley Farmer.*

THE CURCULIO.

At the regular monthly meeting of the St. Louis Horticultural Society, held on the 7th ult., the curculio was the subject of some interesting remarks; an abstract of which we publish from the minutes. We hope the worthy president will persevere in his experiments until he shall have discovered a specific for this most serious hinderance to the cultivation of fruit.

The president stated that his attention had been called to the various recommendations of remedies or preventives of the ravages of the curculio, one of the most nefarious pests of the orchard in that part of the country. This insect invariably takes our entire crop of apricots, nectarines, and plums, and injures the cherries, and even peaches. He had determined to try every practicable proposed remedy of which he could avail himself the present season. The following were among those suggested: —

1. Horse stable manure. This was believed to be ineffectual.

2. Spreading sheets under the trees, and tapping the body and branches with a mallet, the insects will fall into the sheets, and may be caught and killed. This is believed to be a perfectly effectual, though laborious practice: it must be pursued every morning for two or three weeks from the time the trees cast their flowers. He presented a vial containing sixty-one of the insects, which he caught from three apricot trees on the morning of the 5th of April, the young apricots being nearly of the size of peas.

3. Placing a lighted candle under the tree, for two or three hours in the evening, in a tub or box whitewashed inside, and having at the bottom an inch or two of water.

4. Placing old iron hoops, or pieces of iron, in the branches of the tree. He had seen at his mother's residence, last fall, a Green Gage tree having an iron hoop entwined among its branches, and from which a crop of fruit was always obtained, whilst the fruit of other plum-trees near by, without the iron, was destroyed. Dr. S. had mentioned to him facts in connection with the subject, which led him to infer that some potent effect was attributable to the iron: it may be worthy of a trial.

5. The insects may be fenced out by a tight board fence eight to ten feet high. A gentleman on Long Island succeeds perfectly with his, but he also paves the ground and plants his trees in dwarf, six feet apart.

6. Placing a coat of salt under the trees. This is believed to be ineffectual, as he had partly tried it, but without success.

7. Covering the ground under the trees with clay. This he had tried, and it did no good.

8. Hanging bottles of sweetened water in the trees.

6. Smoking the trees with the fumes of burnt sulphur.

10. Washing the trees, and even the fruit with the strongest decoction of tobacco and whale oil soapsuds will have no effect.

11. Swine and poultry, running daily among the trees, during the fruit season, as a permanent annual practice, will ultimately drive away or destroy the insect. The poultry, however, are not alone sufficient. Swine are the best exterminators, by destroying the larvæ of the insect in the fruit as it falls. The insect will avoid places unfavorable to the entrance of its young into the ground.

Captain Bissell said he had tried horse manure and salt without any effect. He was inclined to try the swine.

General Milburn said that a Mr. Price, of this county, kept off the insects by tying a band of sheep's wool around his plum-trees.

Mr. Turner said that a withe around the tree, kept moist with tar, had proved ineffectual with him.

Mr. Clark said that the insect would not attack the fruit upon a tree standing in a frequented walk. — *Valley Farmer.*

TO SHAKE OFF TROUBLE.

Set about doing good to somebody; put on your hat, and go and visit the sick and the poor; inquire into their wants and administer unto them; seek out the desolate and oppressed, and tell them of the consolations of religion. I have often tried this method, and have always found it the best medicine for a heavy heart. — *Howard.*

DISSOLVING BONES BY STEAM.

A statement has lately been made to the Highland Agricultural Society, in relation to pulverizing bones by steam. It was stated that bones of any size could be reduced to a soft mass by this agency alone. A small boiler, with a steaming vessel connected with it, capable of standing a pressure of twenty-five or thirty pounds to the square inch, was all that was required. If the vessel was filled with bones, and subjected to the action of steam above the level of the boiler (as they will not dissolve if covered with water,) at twenty-five pounds pressure for a few hours, they will become quite dissolved — thus saving all the expense of grinding, and the sulphuric acid commonly used, which amounted to double the price of the rough bones. All the bones were so much softened, that the largest pieces found could be easily crushed fine by pressure in the hand. Dr. Anderson, the chemist of the society, thought the steaming would be cheaper than grinding. Professor Traill thought the steamed bones would be preferable to those dissolved with sulphuric acid, because, when the acid was added to bones, there was a destruction, in part at least, of the animal matter. The gelatine, which was of itself a valuable manure, would be saved by the steaming process. — *The Cultivator.*

THE GLANDERS.

Messrs. Editors: While writing, I will mention a fact for your veterinary department. More than thirty years since, the glanders, of the most virulent kind, was amongst the horses of the neighborhood in which my father lived. Great numbers died off. His horse was taken, and under the belief that he also would die, my father commenced an experiment on him with a strong decoction of tobacco juice, given internally. In a short time, the horse broke out all over his body in sores. These cured up in a month or so, and the horse was sound, soon fatted, and was, as long as I knew him afterwards, a sound and healthy animal. This was the only horse in all the neighborhood that recovered. Some farmers in this vicinity, noted for fine, sleek horses, give occasionally Scotch snuff to their horses.

J. B. COOK.

— *Albany Cultivator.*

BEES AND MOTHS.

In a late number of the "Newspaper," when treating on the "Enemies of the Bee," I promised that I would relate the *modus operandi* by which bees are removed from the hive when attacked by that great death's-head monster, the moth. I also requested information on this point. Not having received any, I have deemed it proper that I should continue the explanation.

As soon as it is ascertained with certainty that the moth has commenced its foul work, the apiarian should procure a barrel or tub of sufficient size to completely cover the hive; fill the tub with water, then remove the hive from its place, bore a few holes in the top of the hive, place another empty hive on the top of the one from which the bees are to be taken, then gently lift the hives, and place the mouth of the lower one in the tub of water, press them down gradually, and the bees, to escape being drowned, will crawl up to the top of the hive, and from that into the other. In this manner may both bees and honey be preserved without doing the least injury to either. Another method is, to remove the hive to a dark room, a window of which should be left open; lay it gently on its side, the mouth facing the window: when the sun rises, and heats the air sufficiently, they will soon leave the hive, and betake themselves to the apiary. They should be removed quite early in the morning, when the bees are yet stiff with cold, in order to prevent the *ecstatic pleasure* of being pierced by their little darts.

Many other, probably much better, methods of transferring bees from hive to hive, might be practised with equal safety to the bees. Some remove them by placing a narcotic or stupefying fume at the mouth of the hive: this will so sicken the bees, that they will soon drop down out of the hives. But I cannot persuade myself but that this would be injurious to the health of the bees. Who, after taking sufficient alcoholic fume to make him drop down, does not feel the effects of it?

The ways above stated may prove beneficial in taking out honey, &c. Certainly, in this enlightened age, this age of improvement, no one will resort to that cruel and barbarous mode of destroying the whole swarm in order to get a few pounds of honey. No, never inflict such a cruelty on such a useful insect — one that even teaches man a lesson! The days of fire and brimstone have long since passed away, and other things of more utility are invented to supply their place. Then why not use them? Then why, in cold blood, put to death myriads of these useful insects annually? It is enough that they should suffer from the attacks of their numerous enemies, save man.

S. W. R.

Darlington, Beaver Co., *Pa.*, 1849.

— *Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.*

Remarks by Ed. N. E. Farmer.— We have smoked bees a few minutes with the fumes from the slow combustion of old leather, and they have become dormant, so that we could transfer them from one hive to another, or dispose of them as we pleased; and in a short time they revived, and were apparently as well as ever; and their future labors were an evidence that they not only received no essential injury from their short sleep, but that they had renewed energy from changing their old hive for a new one.

The smoke should be conducted into the hive laterally, so as to have no fire under the hive, as bees might fall down into it, as they become stupid.

WHAT OUR FINE FRUITS HAVE SPRUNG FROM.

The peach originally was a poisonous almond. Its flesh parts were then used to poison arrows, and was for this purpose introduced into Persia. The translating and cultivation, however, not only removed its poisonous qualities, but produced the delicious fruit we now enjoy.

The nectarine and apricot are but natural hybridation between the peach and plum.

The cherry was originally a berry-like fruit, and cultivation has given each berry a separate stem, and improves its quality. The common mazard is the original of most of the present kind of cherries.

The common wild pear is even inferior to the choke pear; but still, by cultivation, it has come to rank among our finest fruits.

The cabbage originally came from Germany, and is nothing more than the common sea-kale. Its cultivation has produced the present cabbage, and its different acclimatings the different kinds; while its hybridation with other similar plants has produced the cauliflower.

This shows the benefit cultivation has effected: in the mind of man it is infinitely greater. — *American Agriculturist.*

NOTICE OF PUBLICATIONS.

Creditor and Debtor's Assistant. By I. R. Butts, 22 School Street. — Mr. Butts has published a series of little works, which are sold at the low price of twenty-five cents each, on the most important affairs in business. These works have had an immense sale throughout the country, and are frequently the means of saving dollars in advice, and hundreds of dollars in litigation. The work now before us is among the best of these excellent assistants. It contains the laws, rules, decisions, &c., on the Evidences of Debt, Mode of Enforcing Payments, General and Special Laws, Taxation of Costs, Legal Fees of Attorneys and Law Officers, &c. &c. It is richly worth ten times its cost, and to many it is worth more than a hundred times its price.

Address at the Annual Meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society. By Professor Emmons. — We are indebted to B. P. Johnson, Esq., for this interesting and able production on science as connected with agriculture, and the importance of agricultural education.

The Common School Exhibition, containing the May Queen, and Fairy Queen, and various other Original Pieces, suitable for Declamation and School Exhibitions. By H. P. Andrews, Teacher of Centre School, Malden. Fitz & Hobbs, 138½ Washington Street. 166 pp. 18mo. This little work is highly useful, and admirably adapted to its purpose. The author has shown excellent taste and sound judgment. We notice a few pieces, by Fitch Poole, of Danvers, in his usual fine taste and facetious style.

MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

There will be a semi-annual exhibition at the society's hall, June 20 to 23. Liberal prizes are offered for the best flowers, mostly for roses, amounting in all to over one hundred dollars. It will doubtless be one of the most splendid and beautiful floral shows ever witnessed, particularly of the rose family, which for beauty and fragrance still holds the ascendant.

TURNIP SEED.

One of the most respectable farmers in Montgomery county called upon us, a short time since, and gave us the following directions for preparing turnip seed for sowing: Mix the seed with flour of sulphur, then put in a bottle and cork up perfectly tight for six or eight weeks previously to planting. He has pursued this plan for several years, and has never known it to fail to protect the crop effectually against the fly. This is an important hint to our farmers, and we commend it to their attention. — *Germantown Telegraph.*

STRAW FOR BONNETS.

Directions for curing straw, to adapt it for the manufacture of straw bonnets, hats, &c.: "Cut wheat or rye straw while in full blossom, or as the blossoms begin to fall. Scald it in a few hours after it is cut, (the head being first cut off,) in boiling water, about a quarter of a minute, then spread and dry it in the sun; take care that neither rain, or dew fall upon it. It will cure in three days sunshine. Then keep it in a dry place." To split the straw after it is properly cured, so as to reduce it to a proper texture, it is only necessary to fit the point of a penknife in a piece of board, leaving about the eighth or a fourth of an inch above the board, then pulling the straw against it. Straw of any size can be made. — *Selected.*

THE OLD HOMESTEAD.

Down in a quiet, sun-lit valley,
Stands my low-roofed cottage home:
Rushing thoughts around it rally,
Thither wafted while I roam.

There, in summer, as of olden,
Waves the green-topped maple-tree;
There, in autumn, sere and golden,
Shadows flit across the lea.

Still the streamlet cleaves the meadow,
Bordered by the mantling vine,
Where, beneath the tall oak's shadow,
Then I threw the hempen line.

Thoughtless childhood! happy childhood!
I would journey back to thee;
Roam again the "tangled wildwood,"
Sport beneath the maple-tree.

There no busy sorrows fashion
Phantoms in the path of youth,
Nor pale care nor purple passion
Taint the bloom of love and truth.

THE OLIO.

A good old minister prayed fervently for those of the congregation who were too proud to kneel and too lazy to stand.

Secrets. — The reply of Charles II., when importuned to communicate something of a private nature, deserves to be engraven in the heart of every man: —

"Can you keep a secret?" asked the subtle monarch.

"Most faithfully," returned the nobleman.

"So can I," was the laconic and severe answer of Charles.

Horne Tooke, being asked by George III. whether he played cards, replied, "I cannot, your majesty, tell a king from a knave."

The Height of Impudence. — Taking shelter from a shower in an umbrella shop.

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be neatly bound at 18¾ cents, or elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

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